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For Immediate Release: Jan. 30, 2003
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Kernan Announces Grants Totaling \$41,100 to Train 154 Workers at Two Northwestern Indiana Companies

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that two northwestern Indiana companies have been awarded training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

"We are proud to support the growth of Gortrac and The Intec Group, Inc., by providing these grants," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "We're committed to joining forces with companies like these that take the initiative to improve the skills of Indiana's workers."

- **Gortrac**, Valparaiso, received a \$22,500 grant to train 30 new and 56 incumbent employees as part of a \$3.3 million investment in building and equipment upgrades. A division of A & G Manufacturing Co., the Gortrac Division was formed in 1969 to manufacture hose and cable carrier systems. Today the company produces a complete line of metallic and non-metallic open- and enclosed-type cable carriers for use on machine tools, robots, mobile equipment and material handling. Gortrac will use the grant to train employees in lean manufacturing, team building, forklift operation, computer, Crane, CadCam, injection molding, hydraulics and quality management skills.
- **The Intec Group, Inc.**, Morocco, has been awarded an \$18,600 grant to train employees in 13 new and 55 existing employees following the company's \$1.5 million investment in new equipment. The company began in 1953 as Permonite Manufacturing and produced electromechanical assemblies for consumer electronics. In 1983, Permonite purchased Cardinal Tool and changed the name to The Intec Group; their primary product market is insert molding. Using the Commerce grant, Intec will train employees in molding, time management, team building, computer, blueprint reading, press repairs skills as well as equipment fundamentals and quality control programs.

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact their regional Commerce office at 800.463.8081 or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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